

Introduction

On October 25, 1996, after learning that a Center For The Arts and Sciences - West Virginia was to be built on a block long site near our offices at the United Methodist Center, we began planning a self assigned and self funded photo essay to affirm and document the skilled crafts people who would be applying their specialized talents to help bring the building up from the ground. Because of our interest in photographic journaling in support of visual and performing arts, we saw this as a place where artistic talents would be shared and individuals could be inspired to explore their own creative abilities.

On October 26, 1996, we shared our idea with Sue Sergi, Acting Director for the Project, who was receptive to our idea and later helped to make necessary contacts with those who would need to give their approval for us to be on the construction site. Approvals were granted, Dewayne secured required safety equipment, and, at Ginnie's suggestion, a telephoto lens was added to his camera bag.

Following ground breaking on May 2, 1999, we began a daily watch for signs of activity on the site. On August 5, 1999, Ginnie spotted a truck parked on the street with flashers on and someone giving directions to the driver. Dewayne rushed down to photograph when the first wheel of the first truck with equipment entered the site from Washington Street, East. It was noon and bells of downtown churches were ringing!

Four years and over 9,000 images later, on the occasion of Clay Center's Grand Opening, the Charleston Daily Mail published many of our Clay Images in a double page article by reporter Cheryl Caswell, under a banner headline that read *From Day One.* A three day exhibit of our *Artistry In Construction* Photo Essay was held in Clay Center's Grand Lobby on Labor Day Weekend in 2003. Also included in that exhibit were a few images from our journaling of West Virginia Symphony's first rehersal in their new home and highlights of their first year's concerts on stage at the Clay Center.

We hope photographs in this book will communicate something of the excitement we experienced while capturing images to help tell the story of those involved in this colossal project! Weather and lighting conditions constantly changed, creating unexpected and fleeting shadows, highlighting an ongoing parade of shapes, lines, textures, and colors. Throughout the construction, skilled crafts people applied their specialized talents to the common task, providing unfolding opportunities to record the artistry of their labors. We value their universal acceptance of our photojournaling and the many signed group photographs we have in our home, beginning with the Iron Workers and ending with a photograph taken on April 24, 2003 during the Symphonys first rehearsal on Clay's stage, signed by Maestro Grant Cooper and musicians present.

Dewayne & Ginnie Lowther, Visual Storytellers











































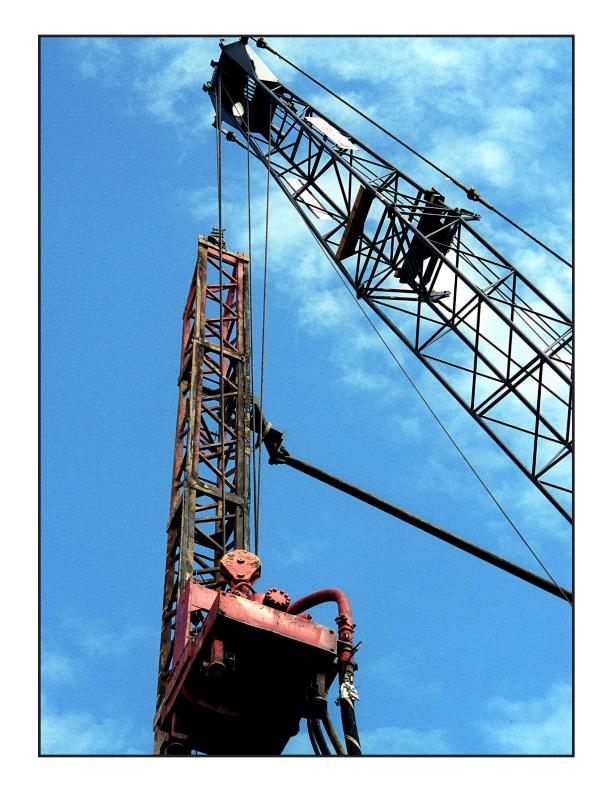




















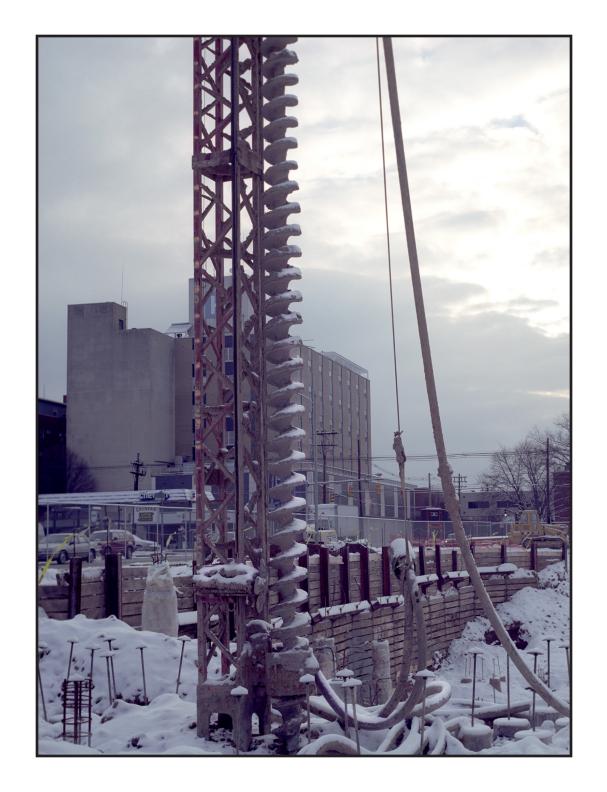




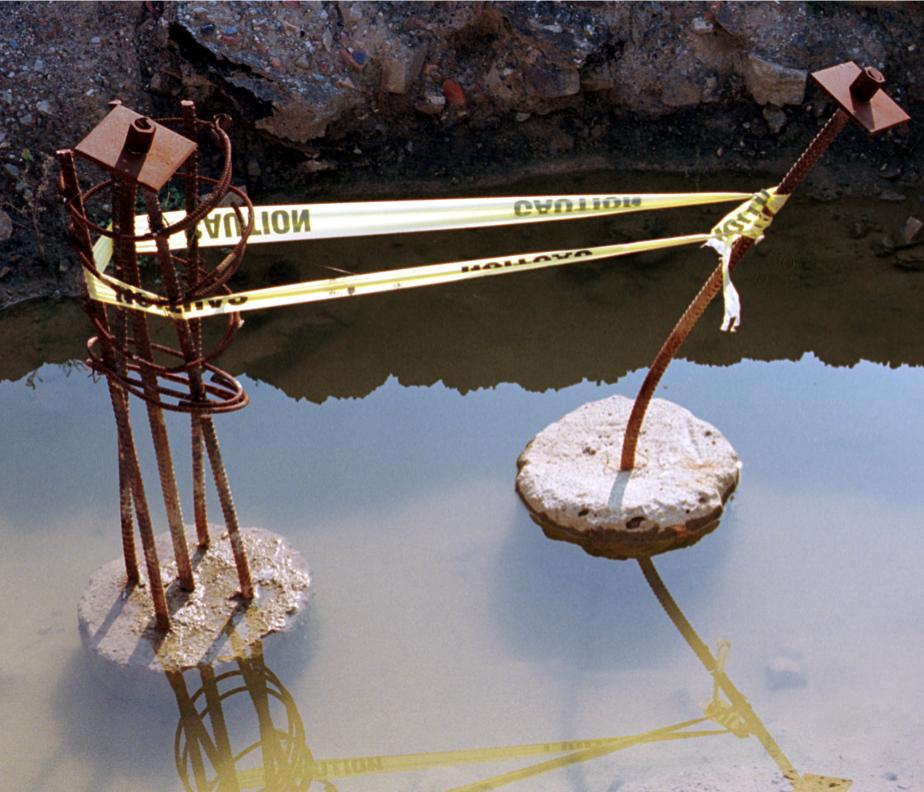




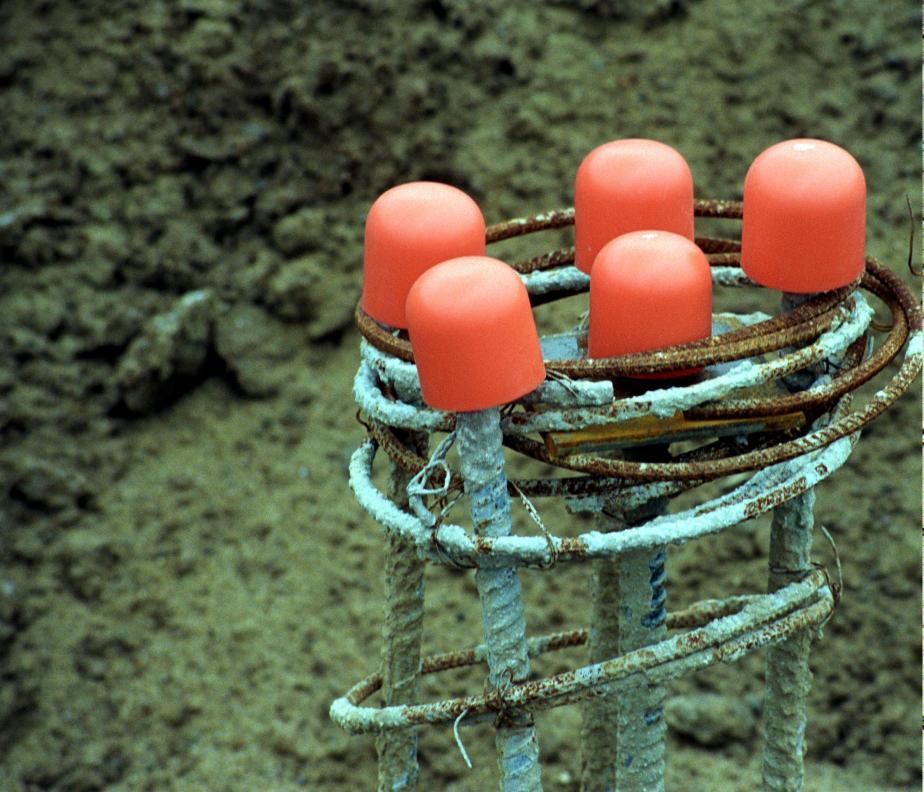




























































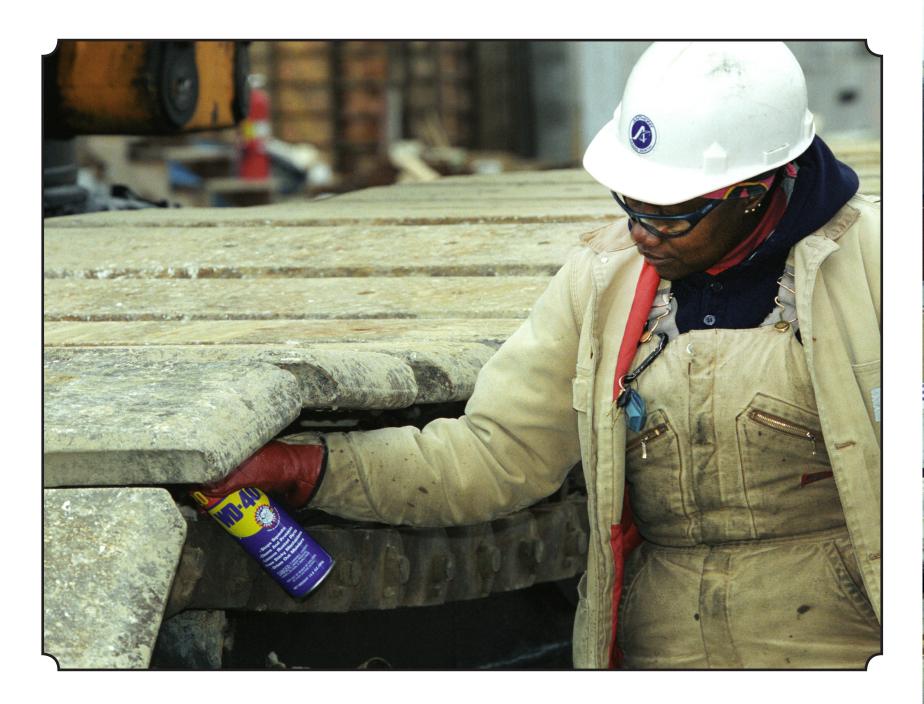








































































































































































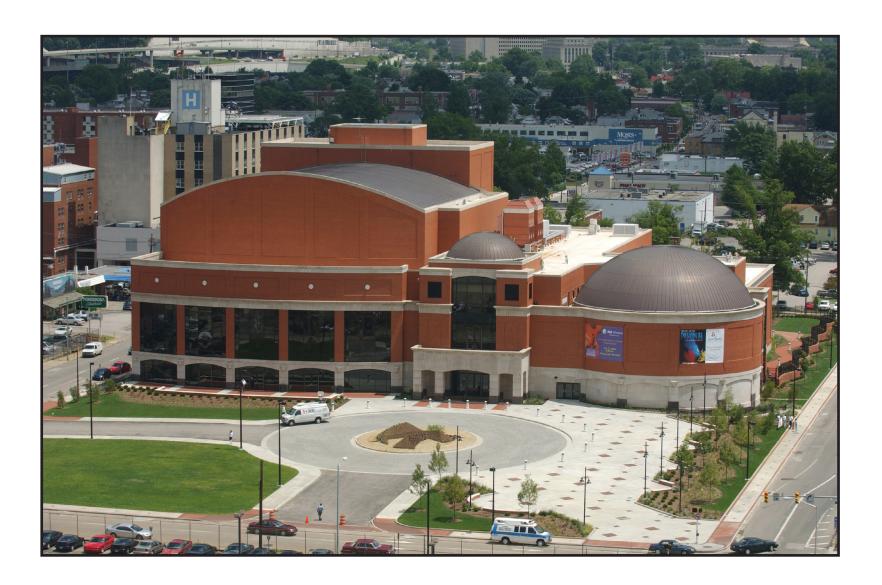




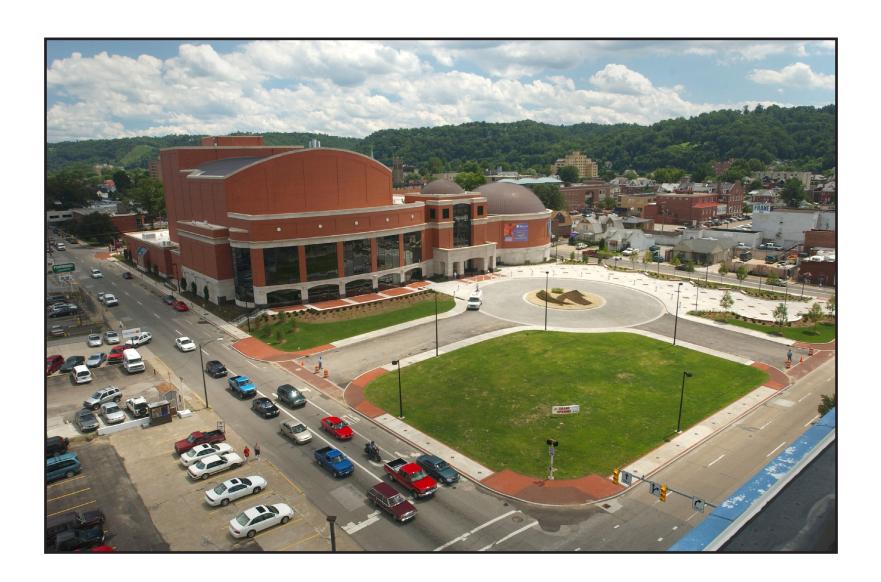




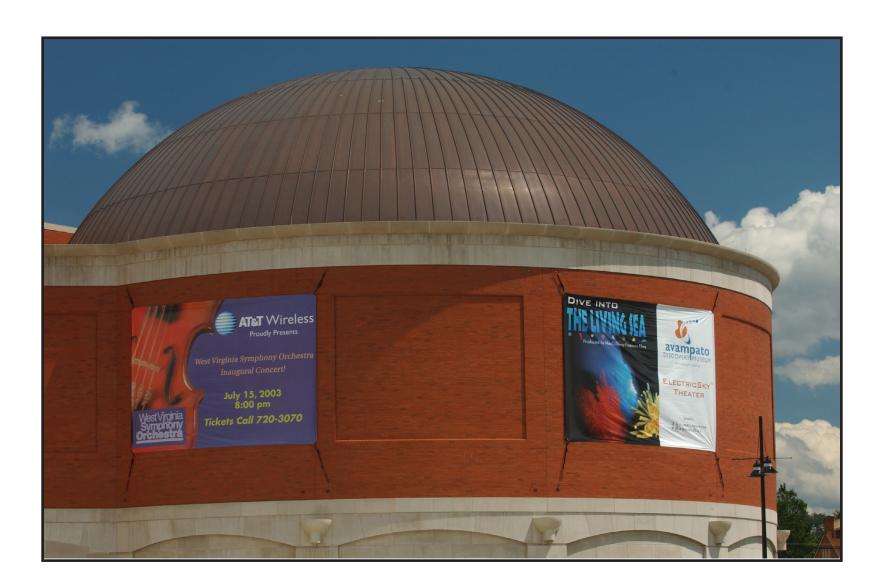




















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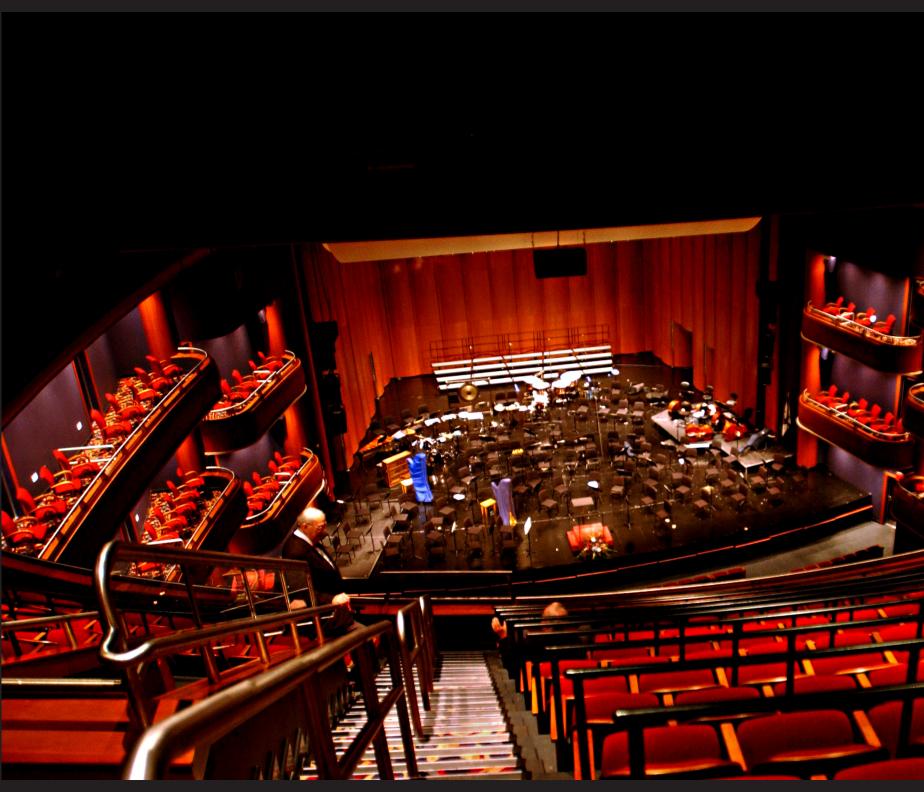


































Minagination ions from the permanent collection and private collections















P.O. Box 11808 Charleston, West Virginia 25339 Phone 304/346-1100 toll free # 888/241-6376 Fax 304/346-1132 www.theclaycenter.org



July 31, 2003

Dewayne and Ginnie Lowther 802 Roseland Avenue Williamstown, WV 26187

Dear Dwayne and Ginnie,

The Gala Opening of the Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences – West Virginia was, by all accounts, a tremendous success. That success was the result of hard work by a team of exceptional individuals who generously volunteer their time and talent to improve their community. You are an important member of that team.

Our opening events were enjoyed by many, but few in attendance realized the level of challenge and preparation involved in planning such festivities. We want you to know that your efforts did not go unnoticed and how much we appreciate your photography of our opening events.

Please accept the enclosed Certificate of Appreciation to commemorate your participation on the Clay Center project. Thank you for your hard work and congratulations on a job well done!

Sincerely,

Sue H. Sergi President & CEO

Enclosure



Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences – West Virginia

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certificate is presented to

Dewayne and Ginnie Lowther

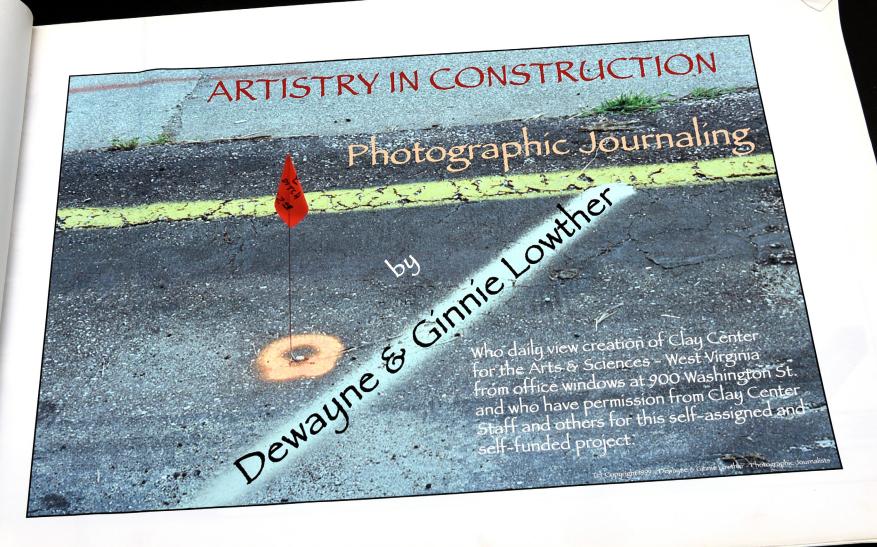
For Outstanding Contribution to the Clay Center Gala Opening Events

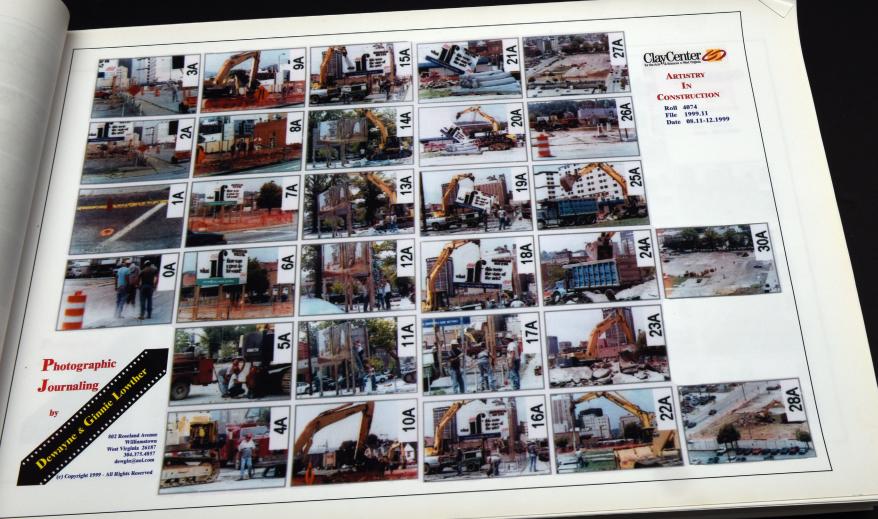
July 10 – July 15, 2003

Louise Palumbo, Chair Gala Opening Committee

Sue H. Sergi, President & CEO Clay Center

Board of Directors













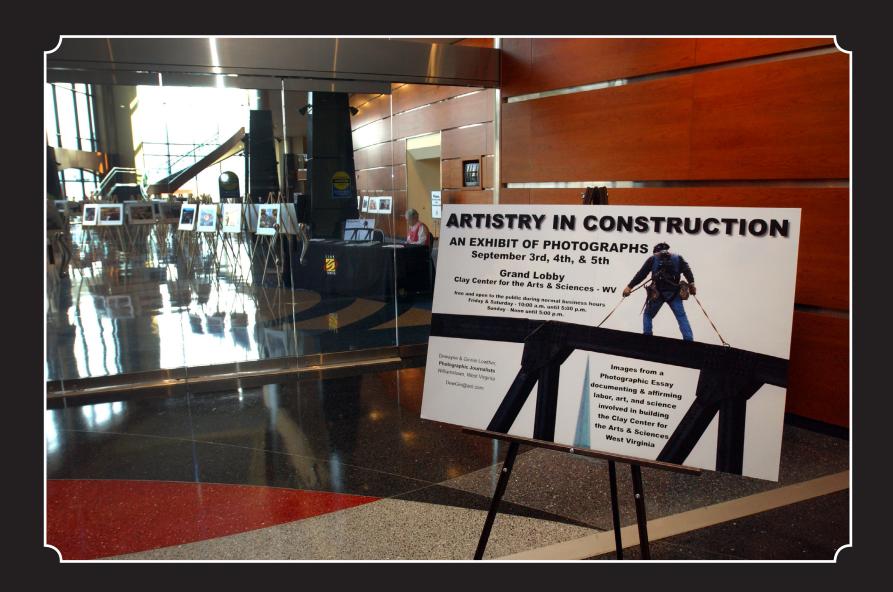


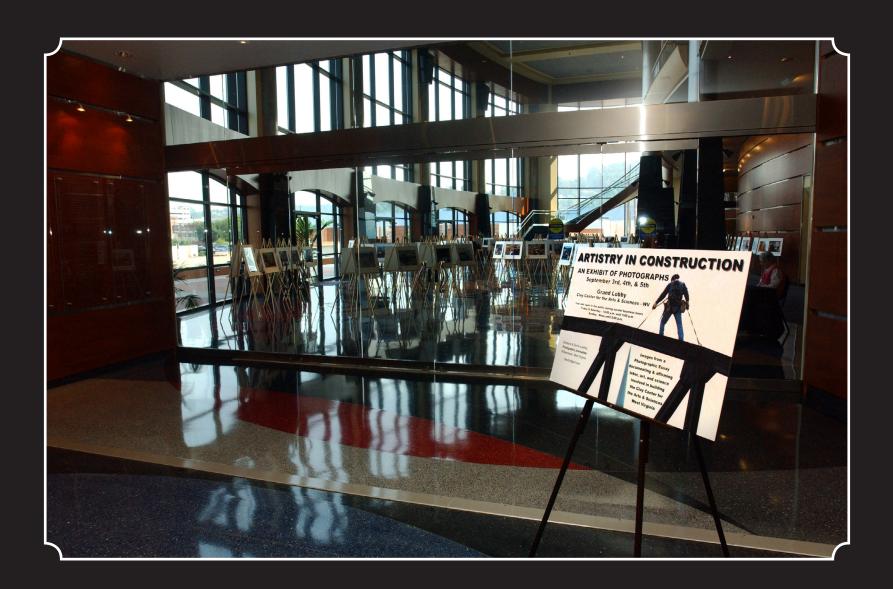












































Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences - West Virginia







